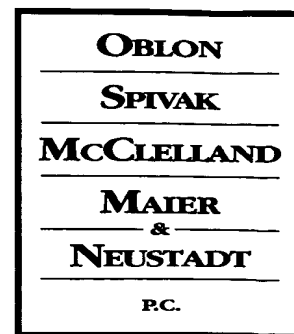




IFW

Docket No.: 243847US23CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

J. DEREK MASON  
(703) 413-3000  
DMASON@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/736,621  
Applicants: Thomas M. WALKER  
Filing Date: December 17, 2003  
For: ORTHOPAEDICS & REHABILITATION  
Group Art Unit: 2171

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**Status Request for First Office Action (in duplicate)**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

J. Derek Mason

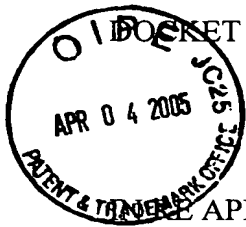
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Bradley D. Lytle  
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DOCKET NO.: 243847US23CONT/alh

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICATION OF:

Thomas M. WALKER

SERIAL NO: 10/736,621

GROUP NO: 2171

FILED: December 17, 2003

FOR: ORTHOPAEDICS & REHABILITATION

**FIRST OFFICE ACTION STATUS REQUEST**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of the approximate date a first Official Action will be issued in this Application.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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